

REMARKS

Formal Matters

Claims 1-22 are pending.

Restriction Election

In the Restriction Requirement, the Examiner required election of one of the following groups of claims:

- Group I: Claims 1-7, drawn to methods of screening;
- Group II: Claims 8-14 and 22, drawn to peptides of oncogenic E6 proteins; and
- Group III: Claim 15-21, drawn to method of reducing oncogenicity or methods of treatment.

The Applicants hereby elect to prosecute the claims of **Group I**, claims 1-7, with traverse.

The Applicants also respectfully urge the Examiner to rejoin the claims of Group II and Group III with the elected claims of Group I for examination in this application for the following reasons.

The MPEP allows an Examiner to examine otherwise patentably distinct sets of claims if to so would not impose an undue burden on the Examiner. M.P.E.P. § 8.03 states that:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.

In the present case, the claims of Group I include elements found in the claims of Groups II and III. As such, the search for the claims of Group I may find relevant prior art relating to the claims of Groups II and III.

As such, examining the claims of Groups II and III and the claims of elected Group I together in the present application should not impose an undue or serious burden on the Examiner. In the absence of such an undue or serious burden, the Examiner is instructed by the MPEP to examine the entire application. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to rejoin the claims of Groups II and III with the claims of elected Group I and to examine all the claims together in the present application.

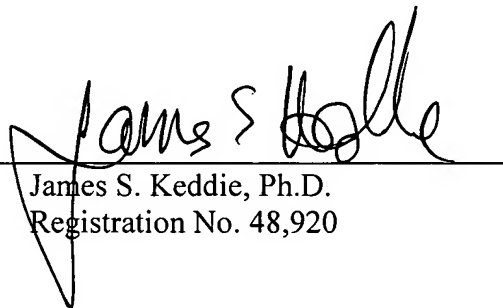
Applicants expressly reserve the right under 35 USC §121 to file a divisional application directed to the non-elected subject matter during the pendency of this application.

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ATTY DOCKET: VITA-009

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extensions of time, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0815, order number VITA-009.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: May 9, 2005

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